

THE WILSON BULLETIN

A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study of Living Birds.
Official Organ of the Wilson Ornithological Club.

Edited by **LYNDS JONES.**

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EDITORIAL

Copies of this Bulletin are sent to delinquent subscribers in the belief that they intend to renew. This is the last time copies can be sent without renewal, because of the recent postal laws.

With the inauguration of the new era of the Bulletin, and we trust also of the Club, it is most fitting that he for whom we are named should occupy first place. This biographical sketch of a single incident in the life of "The Father of American Ornithology" is the first of a series by one who has devoted much time and care to the subject, from an unpartisan view-point. We shall await the appearance of succeeding chapters of this biography with keen anticipation.

The last of the series of articles on "The Birds of Point Pelee" is deferred to the June Bulletin. This will give the authors an opportunity for one more season's study of the spring movements of the birds, and therefore add to the value of the list. The editor hopes to follow this list with one or more articles correlating bird movements on the Ohio shore with those at the Point.

The March election of members, which has usually been conducted through these pages, will this year be by special Bulletin to members only. In the same connection there will be published a list of members and officers. On account of the absence of the President from the country at the time when the call for nominations should have been made, and the election gotten under way, the constitutional time passed and consequently the old officers will hold over. We trust that this will not occur again.

A great deal of good work was done on the migrations during the spring of 1907, and the results were valuable. It is not likely that the coming spring will be like the last one, but careful studies of the migrations during the remainder of the season, with a view to comparisons with those of a year ago, cannot but be interesting and valuable. How much data have any of us touching the fluctuations of the individual birds making up the species, even for a limited time and over a limited space? We venture the statement that few migration notes contain much of such information, and yet this is of great interest and will help materially to solve some of the problems of migration in its relation to weather. Let the good work go on.

Either there is little interest in studies of the nesting of the birds or else the difficulties in the way of such studies have thus far seemed too great to be overcome, judging from the meager returns from blanks distributed last spring. We wish again to call attention to the great need there is for careful systematic studies of the nesting habits of practically all our native birds. There is no field of study of the birds which is so certain to yield large returns as this. Some of us are so situated that studies of this sort are difficult because of remoteness from breeding haunts, but some certainly have both time and opportunity for consecutive studies of at least a few nests. Blanks for entry of the results may be obtained by addressing either Mr. Frank L. Burns, Berwyn, Pa., or Lynds Jones, Oberlin, Ohio. All the blanks that you can possibly need will be gladly supplied gratis.

The American Nature-Study Society was organized at Chicago, January 2, 1908, for the advancement of all studies of nature in elementary schools. The Council for 1908 consists of: President, L. H. Bailey (N. Y.); Vice-Presidents, C. F. Dodge (Mass.), F. L. Stevens (N. C.), V. L. Kellogg (Cal.), W. Lochhead (Canada), F. L. Charles (Ill.); Directors, D. J. Crosby (D. C.), C. R. Mann (Ill.), S. Coulter (Ind.), H. W. Fairbanks (Cal.), M. F. Guyer (O.), O. W. Caldwell (Ill.), G. H. Trafton (N. J.), F. L. Clements (Minn.), Ruth Marshall (Neb.), C. R. Downing (Mich.); Secretary, M. A.

Bigelow (N. Y.). The Council will publish *The Nature-Study Review* (sample copy free) as the official organ, and send it free to members whose annual dues (\$1.00) are paid in advance. Teachers and others interested in any phase of studies of nature in schools, are invited to send applications for membership to Secretary, A.N.S.S., Teachers College, New York.

FIELD NOTES.

ANOTHER GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL FOR OHIO.—Records of this Gull (*Larus marinus*) are so unusual in the state that their publication is worth while. Professor J. S. Hine reports the capture of a female on the State University grounds, on the Olentangy river, December 16, 1907. All records thus far have been winter records. It is a little strange that specimens have not been found along the lake border as well as inland.

LYNDS JONES.

ANOTHER BRUNNICH'S MURRE RECORD FOR OHIO.—On about the 22nd of December, 1907, a fine specimen of Brunnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*) was brought to me. It was taken alive a few days before near Jefferson, Ashtabula county, Ohio. This is the first one which has come into my possession since December, 1896. The bird was in excellent winter plumage, but rather thin in flesh.

ROBERT J. SIM, *Jefferson, Ohio.*

(A wing of this species was found on the beach of the Cedar Point Sand Spit by the writer late in December, but no birds have been seen nor any others reported from this side of Lake Erie. Reports from the Canada side from Mr. P. A. Taverner state that the birds appeared in that vicinity, but were starved before the middle of January. These reports indicate another flight of less extent than the one of 1896.—Ed.)

THE BOHEMIAN WAXWING AT GLEN ELLYN, ILL.—The appearance here on January 22, 1908, of the Bohemian Waxwing (*Ampelis garrulus*) adds another interesting bird to the Glen Ellyn list, and making, as far as I am aware of, the original records for the county as well. An irregular winter visitor to this corner of the state, it has been reported and taken on more than one occasion at several points along the shores of Lake Michigan, years, however, usually elapsing between such records. My bird was in a flock of Cedar Waxwings found feeding on the decayed and yet persistent fruit of the apple on our place, and which presented in their actions a most animated sight.